

IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

Please amend the abstract of disclosure as follows:

There are provided a singing voice-synthesizing method and apparatus ~~which is capable~~ of performing synthesis of natural singing voices close to human singing voices based on performance data being input in real time. Performance data is inputted for each phonetic unit constituting a lyric, to supply phonetic unit information, singing-starting time point information, singing length information, etc. ~~thereof. The singing-starting time point information represents the actual singing-starting time point.~~ Each performance data is inputted in timing earlier than the actual singing-starting time point, and has its phonetic unit information converted to a phonetic unit transition time length is generated. ~~The phonetic unit transition time length is formed by a first phoneme generation time length and a second phoneme generation time length, for a phonetic unit formed by a first phoneme and a second phoneme.~~ By using the phonetic unit transition time, the singing-starting time point information, and the singing length information, the singing-starting time points and singing duration times of the first and second phonemes are determined. ~~The singing-starting time point of a consonant (first phoneme) is set to be earlier than the actual singing-starting time point. The singing-starting time point of a vowel (second phoneme) is made coincident with or earlier or later than the actual singing-starting time point.~~ In the singing voice synthesis, for each phoneme, a singing voice is generated at the determined singing-starting time point and continues to be generated for the determined singing duration time. ~~State transition characteristics and effects characteristics may be controlled according to input control information.~~